

Mr Kevin Foster MP

By email: Kevin.foster.mp@parliament.uk
MinisterforImmigration@homeoffice.gov.uk

CC: SUGqueries@homeoffice.gov.uk

15 April 2021

Dear Kevin Foster MP,

Non-digital version of EU Settlement Scheme

We write to you again about the digital-only immigration status system for the EU Settlement Scheme. In the spirit of trying to identify solutions to the problems previously raised about EU citizens accessing and proving their digital-only immigration status, has the Home Office considered using the same approach being assessed in relation to COVID-Status Certification?

At **the3million**, we take no position on the debate around COVID-Status Certification. However, in the event of such certification being introduced for either international travel or domestic use, we very much welcome the Government's position that these should be available in both digital and non-digital form. As stated in the recent 'Roadmap Reviews: Update'¹ of 5 April:

"The NHS is working on providing individuals with the means to demonstrate their COVID status through a digital and non-digital route, and is working with experts to put security and privacy at the core of this approach."

The same policy paper references the 'Green Pass' in Israel, and the 'digital green certificate' in the European Union.

Israel's Government website detailing the Green Pass² states:

"Another option is to print out the Green Pass and present it (it has a QR code)."

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021-reviews-terms-of-reference>

² <https://corona.health.gov.il/en/directives/green-pass-info/>

The European Union stated in a press release³:

“The certificates will be issued in a digital form or on paper. Both will have a QR code that contains necessary key information as well as a digital signature to make sure the certificate is authentic.”

Given **the3million**'s long-standing request for EU citizens to be issued with a non-digital version of their immigration status, could the Home Office look at whether the approach taken on COVID certification could also work, in a secure and cost-effective way, for the EU Settlement Scheme?

We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss this. Please reply to this letter by Friday 7th May 2021.

Kind regards,

Monique Hawkins
Policy and Research Officer, the3million

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1181